

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1, 2, 6-9 and 19 have been amended. Claim 20 is new. Basis for the amendments and new claims can be found throughout the specification, claims and drawings originally filed.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Japanese ref. (2004-1623, applicant's IDS). Claim 1 has been amended to define a joining portion at the entire periphery of the openings. The preventing means is defined as being provided at a portion extending between the joining portion and an outer wall of the tank.

JP-2004-1623 does not disclose preventing means as is now defined in amended Claim 1. Element 6 could be defined as a joining portion but there is nothing between element 6 and an outer wall of the outer tank that could be defined as preventing means.

Thus, Applicants believe Claim 1, as amended, patentably distinguish over the art of record. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 2-19 were not rejected but were objected to. Claims 2-7 and 9-19 ultimately depend from Claim 1 and are thus believed to be allowable.

Claim 8 depended from Claim 1. Claim 8 has been amended to independent form to include the limitations of original Claim 1 and is thus believed to be allowable.

NEW CLAIM

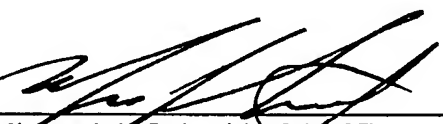
New Claim 20 is a dependent claim depending from Claim 1 which Applicants believe properly further limits Claim 1.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 6, 2005

By: 
Michael J. Schmidt, 34,007

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

MJS/pmg